Dear Moo, 11/6/ 91

It must have been months ago when I saw what could explain reporters and confidentiality and put it aside for the next time I wrote you. Just found it in my desk and that reminded me of what might amuse you, the item from the Wash. Post of 10/31, enclosed.

So you can better understand what this reflects, the week before there were some stories reporting that Stone was working around the clock, seven days a week, in an effort to have the movie edited and at least one print by 12/13, last day for entries in the annual competition and 800 in movie houses by 12/20, release date. It was indicated that it would be a very close call on time, on completion.

So, with this tight schedule, what does the great man feel impelled to do? Fly to DC for 36 hours of dining with the top people in the major media. This seems to mean at least three days in DC, plus flying time both ways. To me that indicates that as he put value on his time, trying to influence the most influential in the media was more important to him that work on the film. Or, he's scared.

One of the top people in this public relations outfit is a former Bobby Kennedy aide, Frank Mankiewicz and I understand that he hadled their Stone account. I do not know whether he is the "soulful" one.

Stone saw these people in small groups, as I understand it. Lardner told me that after Stone saw that group the Post reporter in it went up to him and said, "I understand that you are a good friend of George Lardner." She says that Stone was freaked out, that he lost his composure and did not regain it while she was there.

If you are trying to keep up with the Stone news, the current Esquire has a long and good article. The Texas Monthly will be out with one in several weeks. LIFE is to have a story in its December issue, also due out soon. Playboy has one centering on the many conspiracy theories, or is that Penthouse, and its German edition has two scheduled, a short piece for the December issue and a long one for January. McCalls also has one coming on the theories. (Can they possibly retrieve all of Jim's?) I have a notion that there will be more, that when the movie is out it really will get new controversy going.

Meanwhile, although favorable stories may not have been the purpose of Stone's adventure with the major media bigshots in Washington, I know of none, either.

Best,

Hal